

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 IO-14 INR-10 INRE-00 SSO-00

HA-05 EB-08 /050 W

-----129243 132054Z /63

O 131955Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

USUN MISSION NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0000

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 PRETORIA 2140

DAR FOR AMB YOUNG

ICA FOR IOP, IAA, IBS

DEPT FOR AF/S

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: RSA BLACK EDITOR SPEAKS OUT

INTRO: SOUTH AFRICAN EDITOR PERCY QOBOZA ADDRESSED  
LUNCHEON MEETING OF RESIDENT FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS IN  
JOHANNESBURG APRIL 13. IT WAS ONE OF HIS FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCES  
SINCE BEING RELEASED AFTER SPENDING FIVE MONTHS IMPRISONMENT  
UNDER RSA'S SECURITY LAWS. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM QOBOZA'S  
COMMENTS: END INTRO

PRESS:

QOBOZA LAUDED FOREIGN PRESS CORPS FOR THEIR SUPPORT DURING  
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HIS INCARCERATION. HE SAID THEIR 'CREDIBILITY AND HONESTY'  
WERE PARTICULARLY APPRECIATED AT A TIME WHEN THE RSA PRESS  
WAS BEING INTIMIDATED AND PRACTICING SELF-CENSORSHIP.

DETENTION:

IMPRISONMENT WAS NOT TOTALLY UNEXPECTED. SAG LEADERS HAD  
MADE THREATENING NOISES. HE AND OTHER EDITORS HAD BEEN

CALLED TO CAPE TOWN TO MEET WITH MINISTER KRUGER AND WARNED TO 'EXERCISE RESPONSIBILITY AND RESTRAINT' BEFORE SOWETO- JUNE 16 WAS TO BE COMMEMORATED. QOBOZA ALSO DESCRIBED SEPARATE MEETING WITH KRUGER WHEN HE ADVISED THE MINISTER TO SPEAK TO RECOGNIZED LEADERS OF BLACK COMMUNITY SUCH AS 'BPA LEADERS, BLACK CONSCIENCENESS MOVEMENT PEOPLE, THE MOTLANA'S, MANAS BUTHELEZI'. DRUGER REPORTEDLY RESPONDED THAT MEETING SUCH PEOPLE WAS USELESS BECAUSE 'ALL THEY WANT TO TALK ABOUT IS A TRANSFER OF POWER.' IN AUGUST QOBOZA SAID HE WAS AGAIN CALLED ON THE CARPET AND READ THE RIOT ACT BY MINISTER KURGER. IN ANSWER TO HIS REQUEST FOR WHAT HE HAD DONE WRONG, QOBOZA SAID HE WAS TOLD ' HE KNEW WHAT HE AND HIS NEWSPAPER HAD DONE WRONG.'

ONCE HE WAS DETAINED HE WAS NEVER TOLD WHY. REASONS WERE NEVER GIVEN. SOME NEWSPAPERS INTIMATED THE REASON WAS AN EDITORIAL WRITTEN THE PREVIOUS JUNE, THE FULL TEXT OF WHICH WAS POSITIVE RATHER THAN NEGATIVE, ACCORDING TO QOBOZA.

AFRIKANERDOM

QOBOZA SAID BENEATH THE SPEECHES AND RHETORIC THERE IS A TOUCH OF REASONABLENESS. ' MANY AFRIKANERS THINK THINGS CANNOT GO ON LIKE THIS... WE MUST DO SOMETHING. BUT MENTAL COURAGE AND STAMINA ARE LACKING. PRESENT LEADERS SIMPLY DON'T HAVE THE NECESSARY QUALITIES. THERE IS A YOUNG GROUP OF INTELLECTUALS AND THIS IS A HOPEFUL SIGN. BUT THERE ISN'T 50 YEARS. TIME IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE. BLACKS WANT UNCLASSIFIED

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CHANGE NOW, IN THEIR OWN LIFETIME.'

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UNCLAS FINAL SECTION 2 OF 2 PRETORIA 2140

CARTER ADMINISTRATION POLICY:

DURING Q/A SESSION A DIRECT QUESTION WAS ASKED ABOUT POLICIES PURSUED BY CARTER ADMINISTRATION. QOBOZA SAID TODAY'S POLICIES HAD TO BE ANALYZED IN LIGHT OF POLICIES FOLLOWED BY PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATIONS. 'THE U.S. HAS PUSSYFOOTED AROUND, DENOUNCING THE EVILS OF A SYSTEM BUT NOT LIFTING ONE FINGER TO INFLUENCE THE COURSE OF EVENTS IN RSA.' QOBOZA SAID AS LATE AS TWO YEARS AGO AMERICAN POLICY WAS 'ASSISTING IN DENIGRATING PEOPLE IN RSA, AND THEREFORE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S NOISES WERE MET WITH INITIAL SKEPTICISM. BUT TODAY THERE IS FEELING THAT USG POLICY IS A BREAK WITH THE PAST AND 'REFRESHING.' BLACKS ARE PLEASED TO SEE USG GOING 'FULL-BLAST', FOCUSING ATTENTION AND INFLUENCE ON SAG. BUT QOBOZA OPINED THERE IS CONSIDERABLE DEBATE IN U.S. ABOUT WHAT KIND OF PRESSURE SHOULD BE APPLIED AND WHAT KIND OF END SHOULD BE SOUGHT. NEVERTHELESS USG'S INTENTION OF 'GOING DOWN IN HISTORY AS THE ONE WHICH NAILED APARTHEID' IS LAUDABLE. QOBOZA ALSO POINTED OUT PRESENT USG HAS SUCCESSFULLY RAISED CONSCIENCENESS LEVEL OF AMERICAN PEOPLE ABOUT SAG, WHICH HE CALLED A 'HOPEFUL SIGN.'

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DISINVESTMENT

QOBOZA CAME OUT STRONGLY AGAINST DISINVESTMENT. HE SAID IT WOULD BRING ABOUT CHAOS...'AND CHAOS WILL BRING ABOUT RACIAL CONFRONTATION AND I WILL NOT BE A PARTY TO THAT.' BUT HE ADMITTED THAT EXTERNAL PRESSURE HAS BROUGHT ABOUT CHANGE IN RSA AND SAID THERE WAS MERIT IN WHAT HE TERMED THE 'ANDY YOUNG CARROT-AND-THE-STICK APPROACH.' QOBOZA SAID PRESSURE COULD BE EXERTED IN VARIOUS WAYS, SUCH AS MULTINATIONALS TAKING DECISION NOT TO INCREASE THEIR INVESTMENTS IN THIS COUNTRY UNTIL THERE ARE SIGNS OF INTERNAL CHANGE, OR FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS REDUCING STATUS OF THEIR MISSIONS OR WITHDRAWING THEIR DEFENSE ATTACHES.

RSA SITUATION:

THE FIERY EDITOR SAID RSA TODAY IS 'A VERY UNHAPPY PLACE.... THE BLACK COMMUNITY IS RUMBLING LIKE A VOLCANO READY TO ERUPT.' HE BLAMED NEWSPAPERS FOR HIDING THESE RUMBLINGS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC. BUT HE CONFESSED THE BLACK COMMUNITY WAS DIVIDED BETWEEN, THOSE WHO BELIEVE PEACEFUL CHANGE IS POSSIBLE

AND THOSE WHO OUT OF HOPELESSNESS THINK A BLOODY REVOLUTION IS NECESSARY TO RIGHT WHAT IS WRONG.'  
CONTINUED UNEMPLOYMENT, IMPOSITION OF THE SALES TAX TO BE LEVIED IN JULY WHICH WILL HIT BLACKS VERY HARD, PLUS ATTITUDES OF THE YOUNG WHO ARE UNWILLING TO WAIT FOR MEANINGFUL CHANGE, HE SINGLED OUT AS PROBLEM AREAS.

RHODESIAN COMPARISON:

SAG ATTEMPTS TO SUPPRESS THE CREDIBLE LEADERSHIP INSIDE RSA QOBOZA CALLED ' SHORTSIGHTED'. HE SAID THIS HAS TENDED TO RESULT IN PRESENT STRATEGY BEING DICTATED BY PAC AND ANC GROUPS IN EXILE. COMPARING PRESENT SITUATION WITH RHODESIA, QOBOZA SAID IT IS ALWAYS MORE DIFFICULT TO COME TO RHODESIA,  
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QOBOZA SAID IT IS ALWAYS MORE DIFFICULT TO COME TO TERMS WITH OUTSIDE FORCES. HE SAID SMITH SHOULD HAVE DONE WHAT HE DOING NOW AND HAD AN HONORABLE SETTLEMENT YEARS AGO BUT THAT EVENTS HAD OVERTAKEN HIM. QOBOZA SAID SAG SHOULD LEARN LESSON FROM THIS AND STRENGTHEN INTERNAL LEADERS INSTEAD OF SUPPRESSING THEM. 'WHEN YOU SUPPRESS THEM YOU TAKE AWAY THEIR INITIATIVE... THE MORE YOU LOCK UP PEOPLE THE MORE YOU MAKE THEM ANGRY.'

BUTHELEZI:

QOBOZA DESCRIBED INKATHA AS A 'TRIBAL ORGANIZATION' BUT ADMITTED THAT BUTHELEZI IS ATTEMPTING TO MAKE IT SOMETHING MORE THAN THAT. HE SAID BUTHELEZI IS AN IMPORTANT FIGURE.. 'WITH THE BIGGEST CONSTITUENCY IN THE COUNTRY.... LIKE IT OR NOT, HE IS A MAN WHO WILL PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN RSA... WHICH IS WHY PEOPLE SHOULD'T KICK HIM IN THE TEETH. FAR MORE ANGER IS DIRECTED AT CHIEF BUTHELEZI THAN AT THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE CREATED THE PROBLEM... BLACKS SHOULD STOP BEING USED BY THE SYSTEM AND INSTEAD GET TOGETHER.'

FUTURE:

WHAT IS THE FIRST STEP, SAID QOBOZA, IS A CONFERENCE WHERE REPRESENTATIVES COULD SIT DOWN AND DISCUSS THEIR FUTURE TOGETHER. HE ENDED BY QUOTING MARTIN LUTHER KING: 'UNLESS WE LEARN TO LIVE TOGETHER LIKE BROTHERS WE WILL ALL PERISH TOGETHER LIKE FOOLS.' ITEM.  
HUGHES

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## Message Attributes

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